

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 12. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Currently amended) A method for handling packet traffic in a data network comprising the steps of:
  - routing outgoing network layer ~~packets~~ packet traffic associated with a network layer connection from a selected source node to a local network accelerator associated with a node which is a source of the packet traffic network, the local network accelerator running a proxy application;
  - receiving, at the proxy application, intercepted packet traffic;
  - opening ~~at least two or more~~ transport layer sessions connections over at least one physical layer persistent connection between the local network accelerator and at least one remote network accelerator, the two or more transport layer connections servicing the selected source node; and
  - transmitting processed packet traffic to a remote network accelerator associated with a destination node which is a destination of the packet traffic via the two or more transport layer connections ~~multiple parallel persistent connections maintained with the remote network accelerator.~~
2. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein a proxy to proxy protocol is employed to specify at least an original transport protocol identifier, original address, and original ports of the nodes.
3. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the proxy application uses a dictionary based compression algorithm ~~[[is]]~~ to decode the data prior to transmission.

4. (Original) A method as in Claim 3 wherein a Huffman coding algorithm is applied to compress the data.
5. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 3 wherein a dictionary associated with ~~an existing end-to-end~~ the network layer connection is utilized to service ~~a new connection request~~ other network layer connections .
6. (Currently amended) A data network routing device comprising:
  - a router, connected to receive incoming packets from a source node, the router examining the incoming packets to determine if they are addressed to a destination node which is not local to the router, and if so, routing them to a socket interface;
  - a proxy application, connected to receive incoming packets from the socket interface, the proxy application associated with the router, and the proxy application, acting as a proxy for the source node, also establishing multiple transport layer connection on behalf of the source node over at least one physical layer connection, the multiple transport layer connections capable of carrying packets to the destination node in parallel.
7. (Original) A device as in Claim 6 additionally wherein
  - the proxy application additionally receives packets from a network connection addressed to a destination node which is local to the router.
8. (Original) A device as in Claim 7 wherein packets are compressed by the proxy application, additionally comprising:
  - a data decompressor, for decompressing packets so received; and
  - wherein the router also forwards decompressed packets to the destination node.
9. (Currently amended) A device as in Claim 6 wherein ~~the network connection is at least one transport layer sessions are carried over~~ a persistent connection established with another data network routing device having a proxy application running thereon.

10. (Currently amended) A device as in Claim 6 wherein a proxy to proxy protocol is used to pass original source node and ~~distinction~~ destination node information ~~between the two proxy applications~~.
11. (Original) A device as in Claim 6 wherein a proxy to proxy protocol specifies an original protocol type for the packets.
12. (Currently amended) A device as in Claim 6 wherein the ~~connections~~ transport layer sessions are Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connections.